

German Bilateral Support for Methyl Bromide Alternatives

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During the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Montreal Protocol and the 9th Meeting of the Parties in September 1997 in Montreal, the German Minister of Environment announced that Germany is prepared to spend 20% of her Multilateral Fund, MF, contribution **bilaterally** to help Article 5 countries, A5Cs, phase out Ozone Depleting Substances. The decision was based on recognizing two facts:

1. that the Montreal Protocol, MP, is a success-story,
2. that the earlier assumption of meeting the CFC freeze, in July 1999, which is just around the corner, seems to be unrealistic for a number of A5Cs. The total phase out in 2010 for CFCs and 2015 for MeBr seems to be far but past experience, as demonstrated in September 97 in Montreal, tells us that we are a lot slower with respect to the reduction of ODS as initially anticipated

Germany offers also **bilaterally** to help meet the freeze and the later phase out.

Being the third largest donor to the Fund, after the US and Japan, the German Government decided to charge the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, through its executing agency GTZ and PROKLIMA to fulfil this task. PROKLIMA has so far concentrated on the phase out of CFCs in the refrigeration and foaming sectors.

However, the focus will change .

The decision of the 9th Meeting of the Parties to fix the phase out of MeBr for A5Cs to 2015 is still fresh in our minds. This decision has accelerated the MeBr strategy formulation of the ExCom and the Secretariate of the MP such that an expert meeting could prepare a strategy proposal in February which was approved in the 24th ExCom Meeting in March this year. In the Expert Group Meeting GTZ had the chance to contribute out of practical experience with MeBr alternatives in the field.

The highlights of the agreed strategy can be summarized as follows:

1. Only A5Cs that have ratified the Copenhagen Amendment to the Protocol are eligible for funding.
2. The use of Methyl Bromide for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes is exempt from controls by the MP.

74-1

3. Priority should be given to crops and processes which represent significant global use and on which alternatives are most well understood. Including seed beds and nursery crops, these are flowers, tobacco, tomato, strawberries and cucurbits.
4. Projects will fall in three categories: a.) Demonstration projects, whose objective is to demonstrate alternatives that have proven effective in controlled settings. Those projects should facilitate broader scale implementation of investment projects. b.) Investment projects, whose prime objective is the reduction of methyl bromide consumption directly. c.) Non-Investment projects, which are aimed at creating and disseminating information and education of stakeholders

As in the past, GTZ/PROKLIMA would like to cooperate with other donors and the Implementing agencies, now increasingly in the field of MeBr phase out but is also prepared to implement projects merely on a bilateral basis. This is of course under the assumption that a project proposal is accepted by the MP ExCom.

GTZ as a 100% German Government owned executing agency with her over 9000 staff world wide and 1400 staff at home is working in more than 2700 projects in more than 135 countries since over 40 years now. The track record of success has been recognized internationally as

quite impressive. The basis for the success has been the steadily improved participative approach. The refinement of the partnership oriented philosophy in a broad multicultural setting is leading to better sustainability as experience shows.

We do think that Multilateral Fund projects of the Montreal Protocol could be made even more successful if the partnership oriented approach can be enhanced. We e.g. believe that countries not being in the position to establish their necessary country programs should be helped to be able to do so rather than being punished by banning any projects in those countries. That does not help anybody and the least the Ozon layer. The concept of project ownership by the partner and the development of implementation strategies together with our partners coupled with monitoring and evaluation processes will also lead to success within the scope of MF projects.